

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 07350 261937Z
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INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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FOR ASST SECY MAYNES FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: CO, XM, ILO
SUBJ: VIEWS OF THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR CHARRY SAMPER ON THE ILO
AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE G-77

1. I MET WITH THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR, MR.
HECTOR CHARRY SAMPER ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1977.
HE HAD ASKED TO SEE MEN BECAUSE HE IS NOW CHAIRMAN
OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL GROUP OF THE G-77.
THE GROUP HAD MET ON MONDAY AND HE WANTED TO
COMMUNICATE ITS STRONG EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT
"THE CARTER GOVERNMENT" WOULD CONTINUE TO SHOW ITS
COMMITMENT TO THE U.N. AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
BY REMAINING IN THE ILO "WHERE THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS
WHICH SHOULD TRULY SEPARATE US AMERICANS."

2. WE HAD A GENERAL CONVERSATION WHICH MAY BE OF
INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT. HE EXPRESSED THE
RESENTMENT AMONG LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BECAUSE
THEY FELT THAT SOME OF THEIR MEMBERS WERE BEING
MADE SCAPEGOATS IN THE STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE HUMAN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 07350 261937Z

RIGHTS. THE AMBASSADOR CAREFULLY POINTED OUT THAT
HE HAD LONG BEEN A DEFENDER OF HUMANITARIAN VALES
AND AN OPPONENT OF DICTATORSHIPS, BUT IT WAS
DIFFICULT FOR HIM AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO ACCEPT THE
RELENTLESS CRITICISM AGAINST SOUTH AMERICAN
COUNTRIES WHILE AMIN AND EMPEROR BOKASA WERE
ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THEIR BRUTAL OPPRESSION

WITHOUT ANY INTERNATIONAL REPRISALS. HE WOULD AGREE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE OF UNIVERSAL CONCERN, BUT AS LONG AS THE DECISION TO CRITICIZE SPECIFIC COUNTRIES IS BASED ON SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTES RATHER THAN OBJECTIVE CRITERIA IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CRITICISM WILL HAVE A HEAVY POLITICAL EDGE.

3. HE SAID THAT LATIN AMERICAN NEEDS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT CONCENTRATE ITS ATTENTION SOLELY ON LATIN AMERICA, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE U.S. TO UNDERSTAND THE LATIN AMERICAN FEELING OF ISOLATION. EUROPE IS CONCENTRATING ON AFRICA AND ASIA, GIVING COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE TO THOSE AREAS WHICH ARE IN COMPETITION WITH THE LATIN AMERICANS. HE CITED THIS AS AN ADDITIONAL REASON WHY STRONG IDENTIFICATION OF THE U.S. WITH LATIN AMERICANS IS NECESSARY. HE POINTED OUT THAT COLOMBIA HAD SUPPORTED THE UNITED STATES AT THE 1977 ILO CONFERENCE. BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND CHILE WERE IN OPPOSITION TO US AS AN EXPRESSION OF THEIR OWN ANGER REGARDING U.S. ATTACKS ON THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.

4. THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE THE NEXT CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77 GROUP (THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 07350 261937Z

NEXT REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO BE CUBA). HE REPEATED WHAT I HAVE HEARD FROM EVERY REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA THAT THE ILO PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED INTELLIGENTLY IF THE U.S. WILL SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE RESTRUCTURING QUESTION. HE EXPRESSED RESENTMENT THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST INTRUDE THEMSELVES IN EVERY INTERNATIONAL FORUM. HE HAS TOLD THE ARAB REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD HANDLE THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD BE LEFT TO DO THEIR SUBSTANTIVE WORK. ALTHOUGH THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TRY TO FIND UNITY THERE WERE OTHER LOYALTIES AND SELF-INTEREST THAT OCCASIONED IMPORTANT DISAGREEMENTS AMONG THEM. FOR EXAMPLE, VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIVE TO OPEC PRESSURES RATHER THAN THE NEED FOR UNITY IN THEIR REGIONAL GROUP. HE BELIEVES THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY WILL HELP THE AMERICAN POSITION SIGNIFICANTLY AMONG LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS ON THE ILO AS WELL AS OTHER

MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. HE INVITED ME TO MEET
AGAIN TO DISCUSS THE WORKINGS OF THE G-77 GROUP.
I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT MEETING. VANDEN HEUVEL

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